



Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111  
Serial No.: 10/798,320  
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC Ref: Q80353

### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 25, lines 21-29 to page 26, lines 1-15, please amend as follows:

A plurality of specimens were obtained from this steel bar and quenched at a temperature of 1140 °C . The thus quenched specimens were then subjected to a tempering process conducted at a temperature of ~~60°C~~ 560°C. The thus prepared specimens were observed using a plurality of SEM photos and a microscope. Fig. 9 (a) shows a photomicrograph of the microstructure of the tool steel (specimens) produced by the method of the present invention, illustrating the precipitated carbides of the tool steel. This photomicrograph was made with an optical microscope at a magnification of 400 times. Fig. 9 (b) shows a photomicrograph of the microstructures of the tool steel (specimens) produced by a comparative method other than the method of the present invention. This photomicrograph was made with the optical microscope at a magnification of 400 times. The corresponding SEM photos of the specimens were taken at a magnification of 10000 times and are shown in Figs. 10(a) and 10 (b) . More particularly, Fig. 10 (a) shows the SEM photograph of the specimens, illustrating the microstructure of the precipitated carbides of the specimens (tool steel) produced by the method of the present invention. On the other hand, Fig. 10 (b) shows the SEM photograph of the specimens (tool steel) , illustrating the microstructure of the precipitated carbides of the specimens (tool steel) produced by the comparative method. In observation of the carbides of the specimens, these SEM photographs were copied in shape of the carbides and subjected to image analysis to inspect the microstructure of the carbides.